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THE EXTENSION HORTICULTURIST

January 1, 1925.



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* Down comes the old 1924 calendar and up goes *
* a new one over the Editor's desk. The old calendar *
* has many marks upon its pages indicating engagements *
* for conferences, meetings, tours, demonstrations and *
* visits to the various states. The pages of the new *
* calendar are clean and as yet free from even a sug- *
* gestion that obligations await us during the coming *
* year. The record borne by the 1925 calendar at the *
* end of the year will depend largely upon the cooper- *
* ation we receive from the men in the states and our *
* ability to render service. *
*
* We wish you one and all a prosperous and hap- *
* py New Year filled with achievement and a love for *
* your chosen job. *
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Office of Horticultural Investigations
and Extension Service Cooperating
U. S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, D. C.

Looking Forward in Extension Horticulture.

While New Years' resolutions do not count for much and are generally broken within the first ten days of January, it may not be amiss for us to take stock of ourselves, especially with regard to the outstanding accomplishments in horticultural extension work during the past year and the major problems confronting us the coming year. Marked progress has been made in horticultural extension work during the past year in the determination and adoption of long-period plans of work. These plans have in all cases been based upon the experience of past years and a careful survey of the needs of the fruit and vegetable interests of the various states. In the formation of these long period plans of work, it has been necessary to eliminate all but the most essential projects.

Taking the country as a whole the outstanding fruit problems have been orchard fertilization and soil management, pruning, spraying, and the formation of grading, packing and marketing organizations. In the vegetable work the outstanding problems have been the maintaining of soil fertility under present conditions, the securing of dependable vegetable seeds and the formation of grading, packing and marketing organizations. Present indications are that there will be little change during the coming year and that the major problems of last year will be the important ones for the coming year with this difference, however, that the activities of extension specialists in horticulture will be confined more specifically to promoting the major lines of work and with less attention to the minor lines and to personal service. Many of the directors are requiring of the specialists that they reduce the number of days spent in the field and cut down their expenditures. This will lead to a more definite plan of travel and in the final analysis to better and more systematic work. More attention is being given to making surveys and analyses of the problems and to planning demonstrations that demonstrate.

The horticultural interests of the country both in the fruit and vegetable lines have passed through a period of extreme depression in common with other farming interests. Conditions, however, are vastly improved over those of a year ago and if the fruit and vegetable growers of the country will follow a conservative production program based upon a higher quality product, fitted to the needs of the markets served, there is every reason to believe that reasonable prosperity lies in the future.

Increased acre yields, rather than any increase in acreage, supplemented by careful grading, packing and the elimination of waste both in production and marketing will win. Special attention is needed on the part of the workers to safeguard growers from losses due to insects and diseases. Prices now paid by the consumer are about the maximum that can be expected, and the only logical way for the producer to increase his profits is through keeping down cost of production and avoiding losses.

Annual Meeting of the American Society for Horticultural Science.

The recent meeting of the American Society for Horticultural Science in Washington, D. C., was attended by approximately 100 horticulturists from

all parts of the country. The meetings were held during the three days - December 29, 30, and 31 - in conjunction with the meetings of affiliated societies of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

The program on Monday, December 29th, included a general session in the morning with separate meetings of the Pomology and Vegetable Sections in the afternoon. On Tuesday morning, December 30th, the Extension and Research Sections held separate meetings. On Tuesday afternoon there was a general session with Section C, Agriculture, which was devoted mainly to papers relative to horticultural teaching. On Tuesday evening the annual banquet of the Society was held at the Harrington Hotel and was attended by 98 persons, including members and their friends. On Wednesday morning, December 31, there was held a general session and in the afternoon the business session of the Society. During the business session, the following officers were elected for 1925:

President - Prof. H. C. Thompson, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.
Vice-President - Prof. A. J. Heinicke, " " "
Secretary-Treasurer - Prof. C. P. Close, College Park, Maryland.

This will be the eighteenth consecutive year that Prof. Close has acted in the capacity of Secretary-Treasurer of the Society, during which time he has edited every annual report with the exception of the first one.

The program during the entire three days was extremely crowded, making it impossible to allow sufficient time for the discussion of the various papers. Another point that characterized the program was the presentation of a number of preliminary or progress reports upon experimental projects. While certain of the papers gave definite results of investigational work, many of them covered but one or two years' work, and, therefore, were more or less by way of indications rather than final results. The whole program brought home vividly to the minds of the extension men the great lack of proven experimental data upon which to base horticultural extension work, and the great need for more definite research as applied to horticultural problems.

We are particularly interested in the lack of response to the call for papers from the extension horticulturists for the extension session. Responding to the call Virginia came forward with four papers, New York and Georgia each with one and the U. S. Department of Agriculture with two. In the other states the men were either too busy to prepare papers, or, as they said, they had nothing in particular to report. Now here is the point - do the horticultural extension men want a part on the program at the annual meeting of the American Society for Horticultural Science, or are they so disinterested that they are willing to lose the opportunity? Here is another angle to this matter. The statement was made by horticultural teachers and investigators at the Washington meeting that the extension horticulturists preferred to hear the papers on investigation rather than on extension, because they do not have time to read the bulletins giving results of investigation. Is this statement true? We await your reply.

Aside from the program there was that splendid mingling together of the men engaged in horticultural work and the great advantage to be gained by the personal contact afforded by meetings of this character. We of the



Washington Extension Office were certainly glad to have the men here and were only sorry that the crowding together of so many events during a short period of time made it impossible for us to give each of the men individual attention. A few of the men stayed over after the meetings and we had the pleasure of having them visit the Department and spend a little time with us. Our only regret was that more time could not have been spent in this sort of informal getting together.

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Resolutions that Get Results.

The fundamental reason for extension work is the improvement of living conditions on the farm. If New Year resolutions are to bear fruit in the years that follow they need be firmly based on experience of the past and must be builded on a firm foundation that has been already laid. With this foundation available a substantial first floor must be constructed before attempting the roof.

Given a weather tight roof, walls and a substantial foundation and a family with homing instincts, the new year should not be far spent before steps are taken to provide for the improvement of the home surroundings by the planting of trees, shrubs and other living plants. There is nothing that adds more to the pride of possession than a good appearance. With a home this may be accomplished by adding a few shrubs or a tree or two each year until the place is a real bower. These plantings may be inexpensive plants from the nursery or native ones collected from the woods just so a few are added each spring and fall, care being taken to follow a harmonious plan of arrangement. Failure comes from waiting until the planting can all be done at one time instead of doing a little right now and repeating it. -- F. L. Mulford.

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Fruit, Vegetable and Landscape Extension Literature Received During December 1924.

Arkansas - University of, Little Rock, Ark.

Spray Directions for Telephone Service - Ext. Cir. No. 136,
Reprint April, 1924.

Mississippi Agricultural and Mechanical College, A. & M. College, Miss.

Garden Cities in Mississippi - Ext. Cir. No. 35, August, 1923.

Mississippi Spray Calendar - Ext. Cir. No. 37, March 1924.

Missouri - University of - Columbia.

Spraying for the Second Brood of Codling Moth - Cir. 150, June, 1924.
Ohio State University - Columbus.

Potato Club Demonstration - Vol. VI, No. 8, Revised February, 1924.

South Carolina - Clemson Agricultural College, Clemson College.

Peach Spraying - Ext. Cir. 58, December, 1924.

Wisconsin - University of - Madison.

Control Potato Diseases - Cir. 52, Revised May, 1924.

Kill the Potato Bug - Cir. 83, Revised May, 1924.

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W. R. Beattie,
C. P. Close,

Extension Horticulturists.

